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on Nov. 8, 2001  
By [Signature]

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. S-3-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: )  
RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al. )  
Application No.: 09/512,742 )  
Filed: February 24, 2000 )  
For: METHODS FOR ELECTROSURGICAL )  
TISSUE CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE )

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen  
Art Unit: 3739  
AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED  
JAN 16 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please enter the following-amended paragraph on page 42, line 35:

As shown in Fig. 34, the distal portion of shaft 702 is introduced anteriorly through a small percutaneous penetration into the annulus fibrosus 710 of the target spinal disc. To facilitate this process, the distal end of shaft 702 may taper down

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01 FC:203 72.00 CH  
02 FC:202 42.00 CH

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